

157. *ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS*, Linn. *Gong cowdea*, Cing. *Nacanam patchy*, Mal.

This is the common Maina of the country; they frequent meadows in search of worms and grubs of insects, not refusing perfect coleoptera when they come in their way; they scratch among the ordure of cattle (whence their native appellation), and scatter it far and wide over the fields, thus assisting the lazy native husbandman; and the amount of labour they perform is considerable, as they generally go in parties of six or eight, and often in flocks of forty or fifty. Like the other mainas also they often perch on the backs of cattle in search of ticks.

They breed in hollow trees, making a nest of fibres and dry grasses, and deposit from three to five light blue eggs much resembling those of the European starling in shape, but rather darker in colour. Axis 13 lines, diam. 10 lines. Young birds hatched in March or April.

[To be continued.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Symbolæ ad Monographiam Marseniadarum. Auctore RUDOLPH BERGH. 4to. 1853. Plates. Copenhagen.

THIS work is a most interesting contribution to malacological science by a young and ardent Danish naturalist, giving a very complete detailed account of the scientific history, the anatomy, and the zoological classification of these hitherto little-known Mollusca, illustrated with excellent plates of the animal, their anatomy, including the teeth and the prehensile organs of the mouth, (which I believe have only hitherto been observed by Messrs. Alder and Hancock in this country,) and of the shells of the different species. Unfortunately the history and anatomy is in Danish, but the characters of the genera and species are in the Latin language.

The author divides the family *Marseniadæ* into three genera:—
 1. *Marsenia*, containing two subgenera; *Marsenia* with eighteen species, and *Chelynotus* with four species, having three series of teeth and an ear-shaped spiral shell. 2. *Onchidiopsis*, Beck (= *Oncophora*, Bergh), with seven series of teeth, and a horny oblong non-spiral shell, with two species, confined to the North Sea. 3. *Marsenina*, Gray, also with seven rows of teeth, but with partly exposed ear-shaped spiral shell, containing only two species, from the North Sea. It is probable that the two latter genera may eventually form a separate family, or form a part of *Velutinidæ*.